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NURSING IN MISSION STATIONS

Since printing, last month, a short notice of the annual meeting of the Nurses' Association of China, a full report has reached us, from which we print the following abstracts:

The seventh annual meeting of the Nurses' Association of China was held in Shanghai, August 30-September 4, with an attendance of thirty-seven members. The sessions were as follows:

Wednesday afternoon. Opening exercises.

Thursday morning. The Nursing of Tubercular Patients by Miss Hayward of Peking was considered under three heads, 1, a sketch of modern sanatorium treatment; 2, a practical and thorough study of how this may be adapted to Chinese hospitals; 3, the duty of nurses in lessening and preventing this disease.

In the discussion following, much help was interchanged as to the diet of tubercular patients. The Chinese do not care for, nor is it always possible to obtain our Western food, and the problem of giving sufficient nourishment is a real one. Bean curd milk, made by factories in some places; buffalo milk brought to the boil and the thick skin removed; goat's milk; mutton broth with bread; red bean broth with barley; all these were highly recommended. Each nurse was asked to hand to the president the name of an article of food which could be obtained in her locality, that this information might be incorporated in a book of dietetics. For carrying children into the open air, one hospital had a Bradford frame sent out from home, and others made locally.

The second paper of the morning was on The Responsibility of Student Nurses to Evangelistic Chinese Work by Miss Leybourn of Foochow. She urged the setting apart of a definite time each day for such work. In the discussion the question was raised, Shall we admit non-Christian girls as pupil nurses? The president summed up the discussion: It is felt by the Association that Christian girls are to be preferred as pupil nurses, but experience has shown that when there are a few non-Christians among them, these usually decide for Christ, and may become efficient workers.

Thursday afternoon. This session was in Chinese, the men and women nurses of the city being present as guests. Uniforms of the various schools were hung in front of the hall for examination and discussion. Miss Clark of the Shantung Road Hospital, Shanghai, emphasized the duty of nurses to their patients, the public and the profession.

Friday morning. The subjects discussed were Care of Lepers and Care of the Insane. Miss Tasy described the work for lepers in Dr. Main's hospital and said that when the patients were kept clean and sanitary the fight was half won. Mrs. Fowler described the development during seventeen years of an institution in Siaoan, Hupeh, from one of twenty patients in unsanitary surroundings to a comfortable refuge for one hundred and sixty. In considering the care of the insane, Mrs. Fryer told of the hospital of Dr. Sheldon of Canton, where all are housed on the ground floor and no restraints are used except for violent patients. The discussion which followed brought out the facts that in Shanghai is a refuge for the insane supported entirely by the Chinese, and directed by Dr. Chalmers; also a home for the aged, blind, lame and lepers, cared for by the

French Sisters, but supported by the Chinese. In Soochow, Dr. Wilkinson gives the ground floor of his Women's Hospital to insane women, taking only hopeful cases. The great need of this work was shown when it was mentioned that there is an average of one insane in every family in China, and the great majority are uncared for and unprotected.

Friday afternoon. Miss Hood of Soochow read a paper on Shall We Use Ward Maids and Orderlies? which brought out a practical discussion. The nurses felt that the students should be taught that no work is menial but that, on the other hand, young Chinese girls are not used to hard work and are not strong. This was followed by a paper on The Nursing of Chinese Children by Miss Chisholm of St. Luke's Hospital, Shanghai.

The discussion of this question turned on two points, first, the feeding of the sick child, and second, the wisdom and practicability of allowing friends to stay with him. Regarding the first, a thin porridge of rice, millet, etc., cooked for six hours and flavored with salt, sugar, or with a raw egg beaten in; fish broth; emulsion of rice husks and cinnamon; red beans and barley broth; buffalo milk boiled and the skin removed; were all mentioned as having good food value. Regarding friends, the suggestions were: Allow nursing mothers to stay; let friends pay for a room and conform to hospital regulations; let them stay near by and see how the child is cared for, and then they will be satisfied; children are more easily managed if the mother is not at hand; if very ill, it is a great help and comfort to have the mother present.

Friday evening. A joint meeting with the Shanghai Medical Association. Miss Gage read a paper written by Miss Tomlinson on The Nurses' Position in Hospitals in China.

Saturday morning. Mrs. Burnip of Shanghai spoke on Midwifery on a District in Central China, an account of work she had previously done at Hankow. The difficulties experienced on account of the unwillingness of young Chinese ladies to do this work were overcome by allowing only the seniors to do it, thus putting a premium on the work. Another difficulty was to make the nurses realize the need for haste. A list of four names, the first two to be ready at a moment's notice, and a fine imposed for lateness, solved this trouble. Tin cases were made and used instead of leather bags; hot and cold boiled water, basins, etc., were carried, the nurses wore colored uniforms, white conveying to the Chinese mind the idea of death. Two nurses went together, with a foreign lady accompanying them.

Saturday afternoon. Visits were made to the Institute for the Blind and to various hospitals and other institutions.

Monday morning. A business session. It was decided to hold conventions biennially. Thirty-seven new members were received. There was discussion as to whether it was best for the Association to publish its material in the medical journal, as has been done, or to issue a separate small publication of its own. It was decided to continue holding space in the medical journal but to take a different position in the magazine at the end of the other material, full control to be exercised by the editorial secretary. The definite requirements for examination in different subjects were discussed and outlined. The next conference will be held in Foochow in 1918. The officers of the Association are: president, Alice Powell, Peking; vice president, M. E. Baldwin, Foochow; treasurer, E. Stuart Chisholm, Shanghai; general secretary, L. A. Batty, Shanghai; assistant secretary, M. R. Odgen, Anking; editorial secretary, Laura Wells, Shanghai.